High Lights and Shadows in News of Screen Drama

Famous Players-Lasky for the First Time Takes Up Serial Pictures.

By FRANK VREELAND.

MOUS PLAYERS-LASKY gut on the market a running fire film bringing back the days when Miss Pearl White, Antonio Moreno and others of their lik were as integral a part of many families' lives as the regular Monday wash. Of course the initial serial which Famous Players is to present originated abroad, where serials are still as popular as the never falling weekly wars in the Balkans.

This serpentine photoplay, in fact, came from Germany, and was conceived with as much elaborate detail and vast scope as the Teutons showed in conducting the war. Multitudes of persons were manipulated with the easy sang frold of a Hindenburg. The German directors, it is said, thought nothing of using 5,000 persons in one scene that appears only for a "flash" during a few seconds, in contrast to an American production in which the producer would probably insist on taking a close up of each of the 5,000.

taking a close up of each of the 5,000. Airplanes have been used with careless shandon and an earthquake was carefully arranged for. A whole own was wiped out by an explosion—a precedure in which the Germans seem lately to have grown expert. The picture is reported to have required more than 100,000 feet of film, occupying something like ninety reels, which, at the customary showing of five reels in one night a week would take about eighteen weeks before the faithful audience could be sure that the heroine wasn't left in little pieces at the end. Generations yet unborn probably will see the finish of it. Poesibly a fan who was very anxious to be on hand at the windup might find it advisable to take out life insurance for the duration of the picture.

life insurance for the duration of the picture.

And this, mind you, is only an ordinary German serial, simply made as part of the day's work. If the Berlin directors ever started on what producers over here delight to call a "super feature serial" the spectators who followed it to the bitter end might have the impression they had just been watching the end of the world by special arrangement. It will be interesting to watch the reception here of this series of thrills on the instalment plan, which is part of the unrestricted German immigration of movies fostered by Famous Players, as the serial seems to be no longer a prime requisite for tea table talk here except out in the sagebrush country. While the bookings haven't been made known, it might be worth while to present the picture for a protracted siege at the Criterion.

Famous Players, by the way, is re-ported to be no longer on anything but mere speaking terms with UFA, the great German film combine. The Ameri-can organization had made a working arrangement with the film guardian angels of the Fatherland, and then

angels of the Fatherland, and then learned that a similar alliance had been formed with UFA by UCI, its Italian cousin. So Famous Players are said to have cancelled their contract and affiliated with an independent concern in Berlin for turning sunshine made in Germany into dollars.

Meanwhile the UCI executives are said to have learned that Famous Players were getting real neighborly with UFA and feit a cold chill of exclusiveness sweep over them. Accordingly UCI dissolved the bonds with UFA and started out to cope with German verbs alone. Now the Germans find the foreign invaders in their midst with no UFA to guide them.

It is said that Paramount has on the shelves \$1,250,000 worth of films bearing the smiling trademark of "Fatty" Arbuckle, making ten pictures that are held up because of the San Francisco affair. Altogether, with his new releases, \$2,000,000 is reported to be locked up.

up.

It is interesting, by the way, to note that the average cost of production of a Paramount picture has recently been reduced from \$120,000 to \$85,000, a saving of \$35,000—as any lightning calculator can see—in the economical cause of painting the lily without gliding it.

William S. Hart has discovered a new thrill in life which isn't falling off a horse. To his astonishment he has discovered that publishers and public take him seriously as a writer, when he had thought that his only method of expressing himself emphatically was with a six-shooter. And he likes making his mark otherwise than with a bullet. "Of course," he says. "I realize they wouldn't care a hoot about my writing if I hadn't been signing my name to film contracts. But I wrote a story the other day for a newspaper syndicate out West, and I'll be darned if they didn't pay me 4300 for it. That's big money for me—as a writer.

William 8. Harf has discovered a new thrill in life which leaft falling of a horse. To his astonishment he has discovered that publisher and public take convered that publisher and public take the publisher and pub

"Theodora," Italian Screen Spectacle From Sardou Romance, Film Novelty



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"From the Ground Ép," a new Goldwyn comedy by Rupert Hughes, comes to the Capitol with Tom Moore as the star. In this picture Moore's Celtic grin belongs to an ambitious young ditch digger, who begins at the ground but whose limit is the sky. E. Mason Hopper directed. Miss Helene Chadwick has the leading role, and others are De Witt C. Jennings, Miss Grace Pike, Hardes Kirkland and Darrell Foss. "Save Your Carfare," an Educational scenic study, is another film offering, and "The Stork's Mistake," also an Educational feature, is a fantastic comedy.

pranos; Susan Ida Clough, mezzo, and Fred Jagel, tenor. The overture, played by the orchestra, Frederick Stahlberg and Emanuel Baer conducting, is the introduction and aria from "Alda." Gaspar Santo, tenor of the Budapest Royal Opera, is the soloist.

At the Sheridan Theatre, in Greenwich Village, there has been selected an attractive musical programme. Walter Davison, the director, opens the programme with the Spanish overture of Gomez's "El Guarney." Then an idyll of Nippon introduces some Japanese music, accompanied by the Russian ballet of Glukoff with appropriate dances.

Miss Elsie Ferguson in "Footlights" oegins the second week of a three weeks' run at the Rivoll to-day. A Funny Face' cartoon is the only other

Arnold Daly remains at the Town Hall in the screen version of "The Man Without a Country."

gramme, which includes a prologue with "Ell, Ell" and "Min-a-Metgar," scenes from old Prague, a Buster Keaton omedy, three Benda mask dances by House Felicle Sorel and a Tony Sarg cartoon, Why They Love Cavemen," will close Rotary Club Gives "Why They Love Cavemen," will close its run at the Criterion Theatre next Wednesday night. The theatre will be reopened next Saturday afternoon as a reserved seat house, with two performances a day. The first picture under the new arrangement will be "Peter Ibbetson," a George Fitzmeurice production for Paramount, with Miss Ferguson and Wallace Reid.

Miss Rita Jolivet On Screen Recalls Lusitania Disaster

It Was She Who Quoted Chas. Frohman's Last Remark as Ship Was Sinking.

When the Goldwyn spectacle "Theodora" is presented at the Astor Theatre beginning to-morrow night Broadway will have its first glimpse in several, years of Rita Jolivet, a young French actress who came to this country seven

Miss Jolivet was born in Paris and acted in French prior to coming to America. She studied English and acted in London before deciding to attempt New York. It was through the Shuberts that she came to this country to play the leading role in their Oriental production, and she liked America so well she remained to become leading woman for Otles Skinner and also to appear in two motion picture productions before returning to her native France, where she has been for five years.

with the tradition of the great Viennese and had carefully studied his life before beginning the composition based upon the masterpieces.

"This English biographer, who has a passion for exact detail," said Romberg, "states that for some of the best known of his publisher ten pence apiece, or about 20 cents as exchange was before the war. For the famous Quintet (opus 114) he received only 25 shillings, or \$6.25, figuring op the same basis of exchange.

otis Skinner and also to appear in two motion picture productions before returning to her native France, where she has been for five years.

The name of Miss Jolivet is familiar to all who remember the Lusitania disaster. It was she who reported the last remark made by Charles Frohman, the theatrical manager, as the ship sank: "Why fear death? It is the most beautiful adventure in life."

Miss Jolivet was picked up by one of the lifeboats and landed in Ireland, later going to her home in France, where she did patriotic work during the war. Two years ago she was married to an Italian. Count di Cipseco. She has a villa near Taormina, Sicily, formerly the summer home of the late Clyde Fitch. She also has a house in Milan.

Miss Jolivet, although born a French woman, is Italian through marriage, and is regarded as one of the leading exponents of the film drama in Italy. She was selected by the two directors of the Unione Cinematografica Italiana, Signors Ambrosio and Carluccl, to impersonate the title role of "Theodora" in the spectacular production which the U. C. I has just completed and which Goldwyn has obtained for the Uflited States. This is the first big Italian picture made sirce the war and Samuel Goldwyn already has announced an arrangement whereby all of these Italians spectacles of the Unione Cinematografica Italiana will be presented in this country under his direction and management.

Musical Programmes at the Film Theatres

At the Capitol this coming week the French dramatic soprano, Mme. Christiane Eymael, who has for several years been a prima donna at the Faris Operation.

successful plays for that house.

Miss Elsie Janis, who will make her first American appearance there following her engagements abroad; Mitzi will appear in "Lady Billy," Miss Frances Starr in "The Easiest Way," Miss Ethel Barrymore in a new play, David Warfeld, Oils Skinner, "The Merry Widow." "The Gold Diggers," "Dear Me," "Welcome Stranger," "Two Merry Widow." "The First Year" and "Six Cylinder Love."

Robert Warwick in "The Night Watch," the spectacular drama from the French, will be presented by the Shuberts at the Shubert-Riviera commencing to-morrow. It will be given with the sea fight and the other details that kept this production for some time at the Century Theatre last season.

Another attraction on the subway circuit will be "Welcome Stranger," Aaron Hoffman's comedy, with George Sidney, which will be retained by Sam H. Harris for another week at the Bronx Opera House.

Dance at Briarcliff

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which is founded upon the famous composer's life and character, turned over
the leaves of a blography of the great
musicians the other day in his own
studio. Romberg is thoroughly familiar
with the tradition of the great Viennese
and had carefully studied his life before
beginning the composition based upon

Successful Plays Booke dfor Montauk

Manager Louis F. Werba, who started the season at the Montauk Theatre, Brooklyn, by giving a four weeks' pres-entation of "Lightnin'," announces the booking of a large number of other successful plays for that house. Miss Elsie Janis, who will make her first American appearance there fol-

The Bon Ton Girls will appear at the Columbia Theatre this week, presenting a new two act burlesque called "Fortuneland," written by Douglas Leavitt, with nussic by Ruby Cowan. The company is headed by John Barry and George Douglas: Miss Collette Batiste, Miss Aimee Bernard, Miss Marie Gates and W. La Foye.

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